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Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi With Neha Bora
March To Supreme Court, Thousands Follow



New Delhi: Thousands of people gathered in central Delhi on Monday as opposition leaders began their march to the Supreme Court to challenge Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over allegations of electoral irregularities. The stretch between Connaught Place and Mandi House was packed with protesters, while security was tightened across the national capital. Opposition leaders converged near the Connaught Place-Barakhamba Road junction for the march, organised under the banner of the INDIA opposition alliance and named "Chalo Delhi - March for Democracy". The protest marks an escalation in the opposition's campaign against the Election Commission of India (ECI), with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi calling on Kumar to resign from his position. The opposition has said it intends to submit a petition to the Supreme Court on Monday, following an earlier communication with the Chief Justice of India (CJI). Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters earlier today, Rahul Gandhi said the opposition's fight would continue until the Election Commission's leadership changed, the Constitution was upheld and the electoral system was overhauled. "Resign, turn approver; you (Kumar) have made a mistake but you are not the mind behind the mistake," he said, addressing the chief election commissioner. He also claimed that Kumar was under pressure because of the allegations, saying, "We know Gyanesh Kumar is unable to sleep at night; I am telling him directly, 'you will not survive as CEC'." The Leader of Opposition urged citizens across political affiliations to support the march, arguing that the dispute concerned the future of democracy rather than the interests of any individual party or politician.

Rahul Gandhi Demands CEC's Removal,
TARGETS MODI, SHAH

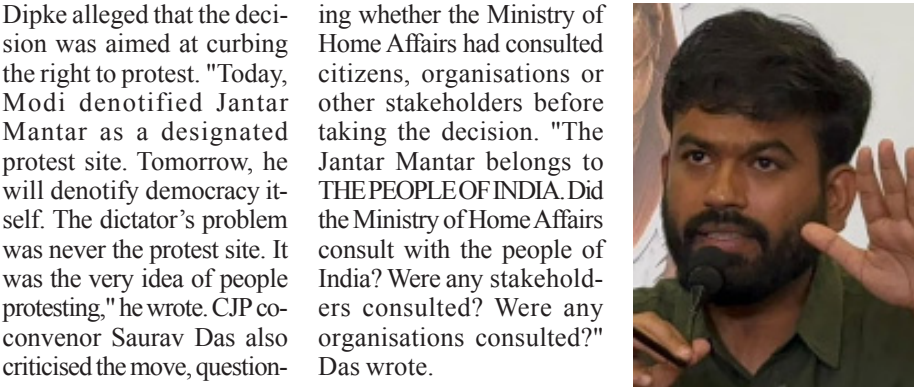
New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the Opposition's protests were part of a single campaign aimed at removing Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. He made it clear that the campaign would not stop there and would also target Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Speaking at a press conference ahead of a scheduled Congress march, Gandhi rejected suggestions that separate protests were taking place against Kumar. Responding to a question about demon-



strations by students and civil society groups, he said, "There are no parallel protests, there is one protest, to remove Gyanesh Kumar, and then the Prime Minister, Amit Shah, we are not going to stop." Gandhi called for Kumar's resignation and accused him of acting under pressure from Modi, Shah and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. He alleged that the Chief Election Commissioner was not acting independently and that others were responsible for his decisions. "You have done a crime, and you are not the main criminal. You made a mistake and you are not the mind behind the mistake. We are after the people who are behind what you did. It is very easy for you, resign and get out of the way... We know that you have been forced by the Prime Minister, Amit Shah, Ajit Doval," Gandhi claimed. His remarks made it clear that the Opposition's campaign was not limited to demanding Kumar's removal. Gandhi sought to hold the country's top political leadership responsible for what he alleged were irregularities in the electoral process.

'Ab Poora Desh Jantar Mantar Banega'
: CJP's Abhijeet Dipke After Delhi Police De-notifies Protest Site

New Delhi: Leaders of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) hit out at the Centre and Delhi Police after Jantar Mantar was de-notified as a designated protest site in Delhi. The authorities have designated three alternative venues for protests, Ramlila Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground. Reacting to the development, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke took a swipe at the government, posting, "Fattu Nandu." In a separate post, Dipke said Jantar Mantar was no longer a designated protest site, claiming it had already been turned into a "war zone by the coward dictator". "Ab poora desh Jantar Mantar banega!" he added. Launching a sharper attack on the Modi government, Dipke alleged that the decision was aimed at curbing the right to protest. "Today, Modi denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site. Tomorrow, he will denotify democracy itself. The dictator's problem was never the protest site. It was the very idea of people protesting," he wrote. CJP co-convenor Saurav Das also criticised the move, questioning whether the Ministry of Home Affairs had consulted citizens, organisations or other stakeholders before taking the decision. "The Jantar Mantar belongs to THE PEOPLE OF INDIA. Did the Ministry of Home Affairs consult with the people of India? Were any stakeholders consulted? Were any organisations consulted?" Das wrote.



Free Civil Services Coaching for BC Youth
: MoU Signed with Dr. Lakshmaiah IAS Academy

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October, 12: BC Welfare Minister Savitha announced that the BC Welfare Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dr. Lakshmaiah IAS Academy under the P4 model to provide free civil services coaching to unemployed youth from Backward Classes (BCs). The Minister described the agreement as a historic milestone in the history of BC Study Circles in Andhra Pradesh. She expressed happiness over signing the MoU under the P4 model in line with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision. She said the agreement would enable unemployed BC youth to receive free civil services coaching through BC Study Circles. The initiative would greatly benefit aspirants dreaming of entering the civil services.

Major Benefit for BC Youth
Minister Savitha said Dr. Lakshmaiah IAS Academy would provide free study materials to unemployed BC youth. Experienced faculty members specialising in various subjects would offer coaching to the candidates. She expressed confidence that the MoU would significantly benefit BC youth. She emphasised that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's objective was to help BC youth become District Collectors, Superintendents of Police and other senior officials. The Minister stated that the coalition government had been providing civil services coaching through BC Study Circles since assuming office. **200 Candidates Trained Free of Cost in Two Years**
Minister Savitha said 200 candidates had received free civil services coaching in two batches over the past two years. During 2024-25, the first batch of 100 candidates from BC, SC and ST communities received free coaching for the Civil Services Preliminary and Main Examinations at the Andhra Pradesh State Civil Services Study Circle, located in BC Bhavan at Gollapudi in Vijayawada, NTR district. Similarly, during 2025-26, another 100 BC, SC and ST candidates received free coaching for the Civil Services Preliminary and Main Examinations in the second batch.



Coaching Programme Yields Positive Results
Highlighting the achievements of the coaching programme, Minister Savitha said 21 candidates qualified for the APPSC Group-II Preliminary Examination, while 12 candidates were selected for the APPSC Group-II Main Examination. Additionally, 44 candidates secured positions through various competitive recruitment examinations conducted by banks, police departments, the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and forest departments for posts such as Police Constables, Forest Beat Officers and Forest Range Officers.

Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital to Be Established in Vijayawada
Speaking to the media on the occasion, MP Bharat expressed happiness over having the opportunity to seek the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga during the Dasara Sharannavaratri festivities. He said the Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Hyderabad has already been providing medical treatment to a large number of economically disadvantaged patients. Bharat announced that efforts had now been initiated to establish a Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Vijayawada to extend quality cancer treatment to poor and underprivileged patients. He stated that the initiative was being taken forward with the encouragement and support of Nandamuri Balakrishna.

Visakhapatnam MP Bharat Offers Prayers
at Vijayawada Kanaka Durga Temple

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, October 12: The Dasara Sharannavaratri celebrations are being held with grandeur at the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri Hill in Vijayawada. On Monday, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Visakhapatnam MP Bharat visited the temple and offered special prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga. Temple officials extended a warm welcome to the MP upon his arrival. Following the darshan, he was presented with sacred offerings (Tirtha Prasadam), while Vedic scholars blessed him.



establish a Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Vijayawada to extend quality cancer treatment to poor and underprivileged patients. He stated that the initiative was being taken forward with the encouragement and support of Nandamuri Balakrishna.

Govt Aims to Build 5,000 Temples
Across Andhra Pradesh: Minister Anam

From Our Staff Reporter Nellore District, October 12: Andhra Pradesh Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said the state government aims to construct 5,000 temples across Andhra Pradesh through the Srivani Trust. On Monday, Minister Anam, along with MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, performed the Bhoomi Puja for the construction of a Lord Venkateswara temple at Mohammadapuram in Podalakur mandal of Nellore district. The temple will be built at a cost of Rs. 2 crore. **Rs. 10,000 Deposited Monthly into Priests' Accounts**
Minister Anam said the government has decided to construct one Lord Venkateswara temple in each of the 175 Assembly constituencies across the state. He said between Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 10 crore is being allocated for the construction of each temple. The Minister also stated that Rs. 10,000 per month is being deposited into the accounts of priests at 6,700 temples to meet expenses related to Dhoopa, Deepa and Naivedyam rituals. **Rs. 35 Crore Development Works Launched in Atmakur**
Later, Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy laid the foundation stones for several development works in Atmakur Municipality. He said the coalition government has undertaken several development and welfare programmes since coming to power. Development works worth Rs. 35 crore were launched in Atmakur Municipality on Monday. The Minister said drinking water is being supplied to Atmakur through a pipeline from the Somasila Reservoir. He added that funds have also been sanctioned for Ambedkar and Shadi Manzil buildings in Atmakur town.



President Droupadi Murmu to
Visit Vijayawada on October 14-15

From Our Staff Reporter New Delhi / Amaravati, October, 12 : President of India Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to undertake a two-day visit to Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on October 14 and 15. During her visit, she will offer prayers at the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri Hill and attend the SARAS Mela at Punnami Ghat as the chief guest. Officials have initiated extensive arrangements and strengthened security measures to ensure the smooth conduct of the President's visit. **President to Visit Kanaka Durga Temple on October 14**
On October 15, the President will participate in the SARAS Mela organised at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada as the chief guest. She will also attend a luncheon with women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Lakhpati Didis. The programme will provide a platform for discussions on women's empowerment, self-employment and the economic development of rural women. After completing her two-day visit, President Murmu will depart from Gannavaram Airport on the afternoon of October 15. **Chief Secretary Reviews Arrangements**
Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad reviewed the arrangements for the President's visit. He directed officials from various departments to work in close coordination and strictly adhere to all presidential protocol requirements. The Chief Secretary emphasised the need for advance planning to prevent any inconvenience during the visit. He instructed officials to remain vigilant regarding security arrangements, transportation, traffic management, venue preparations and the allocation of responsibilities among government personnel.

President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to arrive at Gannavaram Airport at 6:25 PM on October 14. From there, she will proceed to the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple on Indrakeeladri Hill in Vijayawada and offer prayers to the presiding deity at 7:20 PM. Officials are making special arrangements for security, traffic regulation and protocol management in and around the temple premises.

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EDITORIAL

Shock for Tech Professionals
: Trump's Election 'Trick'

The US government has taken a sweeping decision against eight major IT companies, including Microsoft and Infosys, accusing them of taking away American jobs and misusing H-1B visa regulations, among other allegations. In a controversial move, the government has suspended these companies from the Permanent Labor Certification Program (PERM), a crucial stage in the employment-based Green Card process. The suspension reportedly takes effect immediately. The administration has announced that it will no longer accept new permanent labor certification applications from these companies and that processing of their pending applications will also be halted. However, such a decision could cause more harm than benefit to the United States. President Donald Trump repeatedly invokes his slogan, "Make America Great Again" (MAGA). He frequently promotes rhetoric that fuels resentment among Americans towards skilled professionals from other countries.

The latest decisions appear to be aimed primarily at consolidating electoral support ahead of the forthcoming elections rather than achieving any meaningful economic objective. US Vice President JD Vance's description of visa holders arriving in America as "indentured servants" disregards the country's own history. Generations of immigrants have contributed immensely to America's development and prosperity through their hard work, entrepreneurial abilities and technological innovations. Historically, Indians who migrated to Mauritius, Fiji, the Caribbean islands and South Africa as indentured labourers endured enormous hardships. Today, however, skilled Indian professionals working in the United States benefit not only themselves and their families but also American companies and the US economy. India has made it clear that certain measures adopted by the United States in this mutually beneficial sector are inconsistent with the shared objectives of the two countries. It has warned that actions targeting Indian IT professionals could adversely affect bilateral relations and the economic interests of both nations. The reported action against major IT companies has drawn widespread criticism. Nevertheless, the US administration appears unwilling to reconsider its approach. According to the US Labor Secretary, the eight companies have submitted requests involving nearly three million foreign workers since 2009. They have reportedly obtained more than 230,000 H-1B visa approvals and over 100,000 permanent labor certifications. The Secretary alleged that the recruitment practices of these companies had deprived hundreds of thousands of American workers of employment opportunities. Consequently, the future of thousands of Indian technology professionals seeking Green Cards in the United States has become uncertain. PERM is generally the first major stage in the employer-sponsored Green Card process. The reported suspension of this programme for the companies concerned represents a serious setback for professionals employed by major Indian IT firms who hope to settle permanently in the United States. The Permanent Labor Certification process was introduced in 2005 during the administration of President George W. Bush to expedite labor certification procedures. Under this system, American employers can sponsor eligible foreign employees for employment-based permanent residency. However, the US Department of Labor must first certify that qualified and willing American workers are not available for the particular position and that employing foreign workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed American workers. The H-1B visa, by contrast, is a temporary work visa that generally permits foreign professionals to remain employed in the United States for up to six years, subject to applicable extensions and exceptions. The reported suspension is therefore a major setback for thousands of Indian IT professionals currently working in the United States on H-1B visas and depending on employer sponsorship to obtain permanent residency. Although the suspension may not automatically invalidate their existing H-1B visas, it could obstruct their progress towards obtaining Green Cards. Without a viable pathway to permanent residency, American companies may find it increasingly difficult to attract and retain talented foreign professionals. As a result, Indian workers could face prolonged dependence on temporary visas, creating uncertainty over their long-term careers and settlement prospects. The Trump administration has justified its restrictive measures by arguing that foreign visa programmes disadvantage American workers and undermine employment opportunities for local professionals. Vice President JD Vance has reportedly criticised Microsoft, alleging that the company laid off 6,000 American employees in 2025 while simultaneously obtaining more than 6,000 H-1B visa approvals and submitting 3,682 PERM applications. He further alleged that nearly 1,000 of those positions corresponded to jobs previously held by dismissed American employees. Vance accused companies of advertising vacancies only to a limited extent and subsequently claiming that qualified American workers were unavailable, thereby justifying the recruitment of foreign employees. The Vice President has also reportedly ordered investigations into the use of the J-1 visa programme for research scholars by nine leading universities, including Yale, Harvard, Stanford and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). He alleged that these institutions were making excessive use of J-1 visas and exploiting the programme in ways that could undermine wages and employment opportunities for American graduate students and researchers. These developments raise serious questions about the direction of US immigration and employment policies. Policies introduced in the name of protecting American workers could ultimately weaken the country's ability to attract international talent, sustain technological innovation and maintain its global economic competitiveness. The larger question is whether such measures genuinely serve America's long-term interests or merely provide political advantages to the Trump administration ahead of elections.

Gen Z: A Force to Reckon With!

"Should a sledgehammer be used to kill a fly?" This was the Supreme Court's observation on the measures taken by the government to prevent the protest planned by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) near Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Saturday.

Commenting on the elaborate arrangements made across Delhi to stop people from participating in the CJP protest, party convener Abhijeet Dipke said that the Narendra Modi government appeared to have declared war on the people of the country. "I have never seen Delhi like this in my lifetime. Even during the Emergency, the situation was not like this," senior journalist Tavleen Singh, who is based in Delhi, remarked while speaking on a national television channel on Saturday.

As many as 57 Metro stations were shut down. Several trains arriving at Nizamuddin and New Delhi railway stations from different parts of the country were cancelled. Around 35,000 police personnel were deployed across the national capital. Internet services were suspended in several parts of Delhi. "Why all this commotion? Should the entire population be inconvenienced merely to prevent a protest by a few people? Should a sledgehammer be used to kill a fly?" the Supreme Court reportedly questioned. In recent times, remarks made by Supreme Court judges, particularly Chief Justice Surya Kant, have become controversial. A few months ago, his comparison of unemployed youth to cockroaches led to a sarcastic response that eventually gave birth to the Cockroach Janata Party. Today, that very organisation has become a formidable challenge to the Central government.

The movement is no longer confined to issues of education and employment affecting young people. It has begun focusing on fundamental questions concerning threats to democracy and is emerging as a powerful force capable of putting the Central government under considerable pressure.

There are, of course, those who dismiss such street protests. They ask what these movements can possibly do to people occupying constitutional positions. They argue that many such movements have come and gone and predict that these young leaders will eventually fade into obscurity, just as Hardik Patel and Kanhaiya Kumar supposedly did. Now, a three-judge Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant has reportedly compared protesters to flies. It remains to be seen what consequences this latest comparison might produce. If another organisation called the Fly Janata Party emerges and joins hands with the Cockroaches, the NDA government may have to go to even greater lengths to impose restrictions on Delhi and protect its political positions. Leaving that possibility aside, a more important question arises.

Why is the Central government so determined to prevent the protest called by the Cockroach Janata Party at Jantar Mantar on Saturday?

The protest forms part of the party's agitation demanding the resignation and arrest of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, cancellation of the controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, and repeal of the 2023 amendments that, according to the protesters, protect the Chief Election Commissioner from legal action.

If 13 crore people have lost their voting rights as part of the SIR exercise, why is the Chief Election Commissioner unwilling to explain to the nation who these people are?

Why did the Union Home Ministry reportedly respond that it did not possess the relevant information despite repeated applications under the Right to Information Act by prominent journalist Rajdeep Sardesai?

Instead of addressing the doubts of the people, why are Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime



Minister Narendra Modi allowing BJP leaders such as Ravi Shankar Prasad and Sambit Patra to present questionable figures and launch counterattacks?

Their argument appears to be that the Congress, when in power, also protected Election Commissioners and rewarded them with important positions for services rendered. Is it not ridiculous that BJP leaders raise such counterarguments at press conferences and then walk away without answering the fundamental questions?

Some BJP leaders have gone a step further by describing the present confrontation as a battle between democracy and anarchy. They are attempting to portray the struggle of Gen Z to protect the democratic right to vote as an act of lawlessness.

Others deliver lectures during television debates, declaring that laws must be enacted or amended in Parliament and not on the streets. Meanwhile, remarks by Lok Janshakti Party president and Union Minister Chirag Paswan suggest that even within the NDA alliance there are objections to the indifferent attitude of both the Central government and Gyanesh Kumar. On the other hand, another NDA ally, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has

been posting tweets praising Gyanesh Kumar's qualities. His attitude has left Gen Z astonished. Adding another curious dimension to the episode, sections of the Telugu media spent much of Friday claiming that Chandrababu Naidu had rushed to Delhi to provide moral support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was reportedly disturbed by the developments. According to these reports, Naidu, a politician senior to Modi in political experience, spent nearly an hour and a half at the Prime Minister's residence.

But why is the Narendra Modi government so afraid of the Cockroach Janata Party's agitation?

Was there any violence during the party's protest in Mumbai, a city in a BJP-ruled state? If not, why does the government fear that violence might erupt in Delhi?

It is worth recalling what happened during the CJP's first protest at Jantar Mantar.

When Abhijeet Dipke returned from abroad to participate in that demonstration, police officers reportedly welcomed him at Delhi airport and handed him the permission letter for the protest almost immediately after his aircraft landed.

Has the same Abhijeet Dipke become a disruptive element within just a few months?

Why were he and his associates, Ashutosh Ranka and Saurabh Das, arrested aboard an aircraft on Saturday morning?

As CJP co-convener Saurabh Das observed on Friday, why should citizens seek permission from the very government against which they intend to protest?

He made another important point: "In a democracy, no one's permission is required to stage a protest. The authorities only need to be informed so that they can make the necessary arrangements." Going by his argument, perhaps the people of this country will have to launch another struggle merely to secure their democratic right to protest. The Modi government, which bowed to the demands of the country's youth and secured the resignation of senior leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, is now reluctant to let go of a single official.

Why? Some intellectuals argue that resignations serve little purpose because the government could simply make Gyanesh Kumar resign and wash its hands of the controversy.

However, the government's own actions indicate that securing Gyanesh Kumar's resignation is not as simple as obtaining Dharmendra Pradhan's.

Where Are the Superstars in the Movement to Protect Voting Rights?

Who are the real heroes— young people risking their lives on the streets to defend democracy, or superstars who remain silent behind the silver screen? India is the world's largest democracy. The Constitution is the lifeblood of this democracy. The sovereignty of the people gives life to the Constitution, and the right to vote is the most powerful expression of that sovereignty.

When questions are being raised about the protection of voting rights, when concerns are being expressed across the country about the functioning of democratic institutions, and when young people are taking to the streets to fight for their rights, one question continues to haunt us.

Who are the real heroes? The youth fighting for the people, or the superstars who portray champions of the people on the silver screen but remain silent in real life?

The vote is not merely a mark made on election day. It is the recognition of a citizen's identity guaranteed by the Constitution. It represents the right to elect rulers, the power to question authority, and the opportunity to replace a government that fails to meet the people's expectations. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has triggered an intense nationwide debate. Questions have arisen over the disappearance or exclusion of millions of names from draft electoral rolls in various states.

How many of these names belong to deceased persons, migrants or duplicate voters? How many eligible citizens have been deprived of their rightful place on the electoral rolls? Transparent answers to these questions are essential for democracy. Against this backdrop, young people, stu-

dents and civil society activists are staging protests at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and elsewhere.

Young leaders such as Neha Bora, Gen Z activists and CJP representatives like Abhijeet Dipke are raising their voices to protect democratic rights. Despite detentions, police baton charges, injuries and arrests, they are unwilling to abandon their struggle or withdraw their questions. These young people do not possess assets worth crores of rupees. They do not receive remuneration running into hundreds of crores. They have no massive fan associations, luxurious caravans or armies of security personnel.

But they possess something far more valuable—the courage to stand up for democracy. They have the determination to question authority despite uncertainty about their future. They possess a sense of responsibility that extends beyond their own rights to the rights of every citizen of the country. Above all, they have a commitment to the Constitution. That is why the young people standing on the streets today are the real heroes. They are not reel heroes. They are real heroes!

Where are the Bollywood superstars who have risen to extraordinary heights of fame and fortune through public admiration?

What do Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Aamir Khan have to say? What are Mahesh Babu, Ram Charan and Jr NTR doing in the Telugu film industry? What about Suriya in Tamil cinema and the leading actors of the Malayalam and Kannada film industries?

These questions are not being raised out of personal hatred towards them. They are



being asked on behalf of the very people who made them heroes.

Who bought tickets to their films? Who stood in long queues outside theatres? Who poured milk over their posters? Who celebrated their successes as though they were their own?

It was the ordinary people! When voting rights are being debated across the country, when concerns are being raised about democracy and when young people are staging protests, is it unreasonable to expect at least a statement of solidarity from these popular celebrities?

They may not be able to take to the streets. They may not wish to participate in political protests. But is it impossible for them to issue a simple statement expressing solidarity with young people fighting for democratic rights?

Is it so difficult even to express humanitarian concern and sympathy for the injured protesters? We do not know the reasons for their silence. Whether it is fear, professional limitations or a personal decision, we cannot speculate and

pass judgment. Nevertheless, people have every right to question the social responsibility of celebrities who have acquired enormous influence through public admiration. In films, the hero questions the system. He stands with workers, fights for the poor, confronts injustice and challenges authority.

Theatres reverberate with applause during such scenes. But when ordinary people question authority in real life to protect their rights, and the same heroes remain silent, audiences cannot fail to notice the contradiction. Nor can they be expected to remain indifferent.

However, it would be incorrect to claim that the entire film industry has remained silent. Prominent personalities such as Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi have expressed support for the protests. Shabana Azmi reportedly extended solidarity to Neha Bora at Jantar Mantar and participated in a protest in Mumbai. There have also been reports of Vishal Dadlani, Vishal Bhardwaj and others participating in demonstrations.

They deserve appreciation.

Every artist who comes forward to speak about democratic rights deserves respect. At the same time, a much broader response should be expected from all sections of the Indian film industry. From Bollywood to Tollywood, from Kollywood to Mollywood, and from Kannada cinema to the film industries of other languages, the entertainment world should participate responsibly in the national discussion on democracy.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GRANT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that M/s. Khondalite Mines LLP has obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Andhra Pradesh, for the proposed Colour Granite Mining Project over an extent of 1.98 Hectares, situated at Survey No. 58, Kondavalasa Village, Regidi Amadalavalasa Mandal, Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh.

EC Order No.: [SEIAA/AP/MIN/EC/VZM/06/2026/2696/296.21&99]
Date of Clearance: 12.10.2026

A copy of the Environmental Clearance (EC) letter is available for public reference on the PARIVESH Portal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India.
For M/s. KHANDALITE MINES LLP
Sri R. Venkata Rungarao
Designated Partner

Complete Revenue Works Without Delay: Collector Dinesh Kumar



Rampachodavaram, October 12: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed revenue officials to complete all pending works within the stipulated deadlines. During a video conference held on Monday, he reviewed Webland porting, land resurvey, pattadar passbook distribution, Revenue One digitisation and pending public grievances. The Collector stated that Webland porting had been completed in 97 of 136 villages, while ground-truthing under the land resurvey programme was completed in 274 villages, with 475 villages still pending. He said 4,827 out of 5,214 pattadar passbooks had been distributed, achieving 92.58% progress. Revenue records were updated in 806 of 830 villages.

The Collector instructed officials to expedite pending works, resolve technical issues and ensure timely disposal of public grievances. Joint Collector Surapati Prasanth Kumar, Sub-Collector Prithvi Raj Kumar, CH Narendra Padal and other revenue officials attended the review meeting.

'Rahul Gandhi v ECI': LoP Files Supreme Court Plea Over Alleged Voter Deletions After INDIA Bloc's Protest March

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging alleged large-scale voter deletions and irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, following a protest march by INDIA bloc leaders in the national capital. Advocate S Prasanna, a member of Gandhi's legal team, confirmed that the petition had been filed, news agency ANI reported. The plea is titled "Rahul Gandhi v. ECI". Gandhi was joined by Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Deepender Singh Hooda, Gaurav Gogoi and Imran Pratapgarhi, along with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, among others, in the INDIA bloc's 'March for Democracy' from Connaught Place towards the Supreme Court. The opposition leaders and their supporters sought to submit a petition raising concerns over alleged 'vote chori' and the functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI). Earlier in the



day, Gandhi called on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to resign and turn approver, alleging that the CEC was not the principal figure behind the alleged wrongdoing and that more powerful individuals were involved.

He accused the government of protecting Kumar and said the opposition's agitation would continue

until the CEC stepped down and the electoral system underwent a complete overhaul. Gandhi also alleged that heavy deployment of police and paramilitary personnel in Delhi was aimed at preventing people from joining the protest. He claimed that the handling of demonstrations had strengthened the resolve of the INDIA bloc and students. "We will not stop, since truth is with us," Gandhi said, urging people to join the march and describing the Constitution as his religion. The petition comes amid the opposition's sustained campaign against the ECI over alleged irregularities in electoral roll revisions.

Supreme Court Refuses To Stay CBI FIR Against Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's OSD, Bars Coercive Action

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR registered against Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Rajbir Singh Ghuman, in a corruption case. However, the court directed the investigating agency not to take any coercive action in the matter. A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale passed the interim order while hearing an appeal filed by the Punjab government against the Punjab and Haryana High Court's



direction to the CBI to investigate allegations of corruption and influence-peddling against Ghuman, Nitin Gohal and five other named suspects. According to the allegations, bribes were allegedly paid to influence government transfers and postings, tenders, policy decisions, licensing and land-related matters. The CBI registered the FIR in Delhi on October 5 under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, following directions from the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The allegations also involve access to confidential government documents, facilitation of arms licences and other benefits. The case originated from communications sent by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to the Punjab Police seeking an investigation into allegations involving Ghuman. The ED alleged that Gohal acted as an intermediary between Ghuman and people seeking favours from the Punjab

government.

The ED had shared information with the Punjab Police on August 3, but the police did not register an FIR. Advocate Nikhil Saraf subsequently approached the High Court through a PIL, alleging that the police had failed to take appropriate action despite receiving information from the central agency. On October 5, a Punjab and Haryana High Court bench comprising Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor directed the CBI to register a criminal case and investigate the allegations. The High Court also asked the agency to submit a report on its investigation within two months. The High Court observed that the information shared by the ED prima facie indicated the commission of cognisable offences involving a high public office, potentially endangering public interest. It noted that the Punjab Police had conducted only a "preliminary inquiry" despite receiving the information in August. The High Court also pointed out that although the Punjab Police had is-

sued notices to several individuals during its preliminary inquiry, Ghuman had not been asked to join the investigation. The court found that the material forwarded by the ED contained incriminating information and said the state police were expected to provide a responsible response. It subsequently directed the Punjab government and the Punjab Police to extend all necessary assistance to the CBI to ensure a fair investigation.

The matter reached the Supreme Court after the Punjab government challenged the High Court's direction for a CBI investigation. It was initially listed before Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu but was later placed before the present bench after Justice Nagu recused himself. The Supreme Court's interim order provides protection against coercive steps without stopping the investigation. The distinction is significant because the corruption allegations remain under investigation, while the Punjab government's challenge to the High Court's order is yet to be decided.

Applications for 271 Liquor Shops Open Until October 19 in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati, October 11: The Andhra Pradesh Excise Department has issued a fresh notification for 271 liquor shops that remained unallocated after the renewal and lottery processes. Of these, 267 are general-category shops, while four are reserved for

traditional toddy-tapping communities. Excise Commissioner Ch. Sridhar said in a statement that applications from eligible individuals would be accepted until October 19. The shops will be allotted through a lottery on October 21. According to the Commissioner,

Kadapa has the highest number of available shops at 33, followed by Nellore with 24, Guntur and Tirupati with 19 each, West Godavari with 17, Prakasam with 16, Anantapur with 15, Anakapalli and Krishna with 13 each, Bapatla and Palnadu with 12 each,

Markapuram with 11 and Srikakulam with 10. A few shops are also available in other districts. The Commissioner stated that out of a total of 3,736 liquor shops in the state, 2,929 had been renewed, while 536 had been allotted through the lottery system.

Centre Caps Cancer Drug Trade Margins At 30 Per Cent, Supreme Court Questions High Prices Of Other Medicines

New Delhi: The Central government informed the Supreme Court on Monday, October 12, that it has capped trade margins on anti-cancer drugs at 30% of the maximum retail price (MRP). The move comes weeks after the top court raised serious concerns over the steep prices of cancer medicines and the profits made on their sale. However, a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta questioned why the government had restricted the measure to cancer drugs when several commonly used medicines and medical devices also carry high profit margins. The court's observations brought attention to the wider issue of medicine affordability and whether existing price controls adequately protect patients, Bar & Bench reported.

During an earlier hearing, the Supreme Court had highlighted an instance in which a cancer medicine priced at Rs.2,700 carried an MRP of Rs.27,000. The court had described the difference as "broad daylight dacoity" and raised concerns over fraud involving public health schemes. At Monday's hearing, the government informed the court that it had addressed the pricing issue concerning cancer medicines. The Bench, however, questioned why similar measures were not being considered for other medicines and medical devices, particularly those used in routine treatments. The judges cited the example of an Indian-made cardiac stent, pointing out that its price to the retailer was Rs.5,000



while its MRP stood at Rs.25,000. The Bench suggested that limiting such margins could significantly reduce unnecessary medical interventions driven by financial incentives. The court observed, "You put a cap of 16 percent and you will reduce medical interventions by three-fourths. Doctors cause interventions to be done because the margins are so high." Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the Bench that cardiac stent prices were already capped. However, the judges continued to question the large differences between wholesale and retail prices of other commonly used medical products.

The Bench referred to the antibiotic azithromycin, which had an MRP of Rs.78.29 despite its price to the stockist being Rs.28.50. It also cited a saline drip line while questioning pricing practices in the medical supplies market. "Azithromycin, MRP Rs.78.29, PTS (Price to Stockist) Rs.28.50. Tell us one beneficial reasoning for the patient," the Bench

asked. The judges also referred to a drip line for saline, citing prices of Rs.11 and Rs.270, and questioned how manufacturers and sellers determined such widely differing prices.

The Supreme Court was hearing a petition filed by Kishan Chand Jain seeking mandatory prescriptions of generic medicines, stricter initial price controls on non-scheduled drugs and MRP caps on medical devices. Jain had earlier submitted that under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) of 2013, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes ceiling prices for only around 1,000 scheduled medicines. According to his submission, nearly 82% of medicines available in the market remain outside this category. The figures raised an important question before the court about the extent of government regulation and whether patients receive adequate protection against high medicine prices.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati defended the government's

approach, arguing that medicine pricing requires a balance between affordability, availability and market forces. "We don't want to control the entire ecosystem of drugs. India already has amongst the lowest prices of medicines. If there is too much intervention by the government, then it will lead to the market getting sufficed. It will affect availability," Bhati submitted. The Bench remained unconvinced and questioned whether existing price controls had affected the availability of regulated medicines. "Give us one justification where there is a concern shown for patients. You are giving a 16 percent margin on DPCO. Do the DPCO controlled medicines not reach the consumers?" the court asked.

Mehta informed the court that the Centre would announce a list of approved cancer medicines covered by the 30% trade margin cap. The list would be updated periodically, while inexpensive formulations would remain outside its scope.

'This Is Not My Domain': CJI Surya Kant On Anti-CEC Protests In Delhi, Declines To Comment On Congress Leaders' Meeting Request

New Delhi: "Ye mera mudda nahin hai. (This matter doesn't pertain to my domain)," Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant said on Monday, when asked about protests against the CEC in Delhi over the past few days and the associated restrictions. During an interaction with reporters on the sidelines of an event to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at Vigyan Bhawan here, he declined to divulge reasons for his refusal to meet Congress leaders over the issue of "vote chori". The last few days have seen protests against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar in different parts of Delhi. Over the weekend, the capital turned into a fortress, with massive deployment of security personnel, closure of 45 metro stations and intensive checks at the city's border

points. Thousands of protesters, including Cockroach Janta Party leaders and former chief ministers, were detained. The CJI, when asked about these protests and the restrictions on movement, said the matter was related to law and order "Ye mera mudda nahin hai," he said. Asked about the opposition's march to the Supreme Court, the CJI said, "I will not make any comments on it." Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had written to CJI Kant, seeking a meeting between 4 and 5 pm on Monday to hand over a memorandum demanding an end to "vote chori", Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, halting of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and switching back to



the paper ballot format. The CJI, however, declined to meet them. In response to a question, the CJI said that in his reply to the letter, he "cited some reasons" and expressed his position that he "won't be able to meet". "I had received a letter yesterday, and I have given the reply. Letter was of day before yesterday, but I was out," he said.

He refused to divulge the contents of the letter and

Tushar Gandhi Announces Sit-In Protest Near Mantralaya In First Week Of November

Mumbai: Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson, Tushar Gandhi, on Monday announced that he would stage a sit-in protest against the government near Mantralaya in Mumbai in the first week of November. Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Gandhi wrote, "In the first week of November, I will protest under the Statue of Babu next to Mantralaya. I will start by seeking the blessings of Babasaheb at his statue, then walk to Babu's statue and sit there in protest." Explaining his decision to protest near Mantralaya, he wrote, "When one protests against the Government, one must protest where the Government is." He also invited people to join him, stating, "Those who believe we need to fight to

protect democracy are welcome."

Gandhi asserted that he would not seek permission for the demonstration. "I seek no permission. Civil Disobedience does not seek permission," he wrote. He also warned those planning to join him to be prepared for possible police action. His announcement comes amid reports of police action against protesters in Mumbai, Delhi and other parts of the country. The demonstrators have been demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Mumbai Police detained Gandhi in Bandra while he was travelling to August Kranti Maidan at Grant Road



to participate in a demonstration supporting the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), which had organised a protest in Delhi. Police took Gandhi to DN Nagar Police Station and reportedly allowed him to leave by the evening. Several other protesters attempting to demonstrate in support of the CJP were also detained at August Kranti Maidan and other locations in Mumbai. However, police later released them.

said, "Please ask the content of the letter from them. I have maintained its confidentiality." On several MPs and the CJP continuing their protests to raise their grievances, the CJI said, "Doors of the Supreme Court are open for everybody." "Anyone who desires, whether a common man or a member of any elected body, every citizen of India has a right to reach us. We will hear issues in consonance with the law, and whatever rights people deserve, we will grant them," he said. The CJI was also asked about the Supreme Court not meeting with the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on simultaneous elections.

"There are more grounds on this. I have given more than one ground on this. I had said that there is a possibility of conflict of interests and the matter can come to court tomorrow. So, it was my and my colleagues' view that we should avoid any conflict of interest," he said. P P Chaudhary, chairman of the JPC on simultaneous elections, had recently said that the Supreme Court had initially scheduled an "informal interaction" with the panel following its request for a meeting with the judges, but later called it off as it felt that it was "not appropriate".

7.7 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Panama, Tsunami Warning Lifted

A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake rocked Panama on Friday, causing buildings and roads to collapse in the center of the country but no immediate reports of casualties. The shallow tremor was felt across the Central American nation of around 4.5 million people, according to the National Civil Protection System. It lasted for around a minute. In Panama City, about 200 kilometers from the epicenter, there were scenes of panic as people rushed to evacuate from the city's emblematic skyscrapers. "I was scared because the shaking was very strong and prolonged. Heavy objects like dressers, the bed, and all the kitchen items were shaking," Salomon Andion, 46, told AFP after evacuating his 15-story building for the second time following aftershocks. A video widely shared on social media showed water falling from the rooftop pool of a building that's over 20 stories tall. Another showed a bridge over the Panama Canal shaking violently but remaining upright as vehicles travelled across

it. "We are facing a major disaster," President Jose Raul Mulino said, adding that some roads had "completely collapsed." "It was horrible, like nothing we ever experienced. My daughter was trapped in school," Juana Alveo, a 38-year-old cashier at a store in the city of Penonome in central Cocle province told AFP. The US Geological Survey said the quake struck at 1756 GMT with an epicenter 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the small town of Pitaloza Arriba in central Herrera province. The USGS initially estimated it to be a magnitude-8.0 quake before revising it to 7.7. A tsunami warning was issued for the eastern Pacific but later lifted. The Panama Canal Authority said shipping through the channel, which connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, was unaffected and operating "as normal." Mulino travelled to Penonome to coordinate the disaster response. Health Minister Fernando Boyd said the most affected areas were the provinces of Herrera and Cocle as well as Los Santos in the southeast.



He said the town of Tonosi in Los Santos was completely cut off. "We are trying to figure out how to get there by air, because it's impossible by land," he said. Panama City's international airport, a major hub for the region, was temporarily closed. Several flights were diverted to other airports as a precaution, according to the Civil Aeronautics Authority. The leaders of Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala all sent messages of solidarity and offers to send aid.

Over 80 aftershocks

Earthquakes are rare in Panama and usually occur in the western Chiriqui province, bordering Costa Rica. Former president Ricardo Martinelli posted pictures on Instagram of his house in the town of Sona in Veraguas province which collapsed. A church and a hotel in Penonome also suffered extensive damage, images shared on local media showed. Over 80 aftershocks, one above magnitude 6.0, were recorded by the local geosciences institute. Writing on X, Mulino called for calm.

"What happened should not be used to generate alarms and disorder," he said, adding that he had called for a report on the damage. The education ministry announced the suspension of classes in schools nationwide. The Panamanian quake is at least the fourth quake this year in Latin America surpassing 7.0 in magnitude, after devastating back-to-back earthquakes in Venezuela's Guaira in June and a powerful earthquake in western Colombia in August.

Pak PM Offers Nobel "Hope" For Trump. The Winner Offers A Joke



New Delhi:Shehbaz Sharif seems to have pre-empted it, as did Donald Trump, though the Pakistani leader added a bit of hope for effect. Barely a couple of hours before Donald Trump was again passed over for the Nobel Peace Prize, Pakistan's Prime Minister repeated that his country "nominated" the US President for it and hoped he would "receive due recognition this time". This time, the Nobel Committee in Norway named former United Nations human rights chief Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay as the 2026 laureate. Pillay, an 85-year-old South African jurist with Indian Tamil roots, had a Trump joke to offer immediately after. "If you clap a little bit more, I may share this prize with Trump!" she said in a video posted by the Secretary General of Amnesty International in which she was being applauded. Last year's laureate had indeed announced such a "share". Trump later shared a post by a lawyer on the platform Truth Social that called Pillay a "hater" and said the award had been demeaned. Shehbaz Sharif insisted in his X post beforehand, "President Donald Trump played a historic role in advancing peace in South Asia. His timely intervention helped bring Pakistan and India back from the brink and secure a ceasefire, that is holding till today." India has repeatedly said no third party had a role in ending the hostilities after it launched Operation Sindoor in May 2025 in response to a terrorist attack in Kashmir. Trump, who has claimed dozens of times that he ended the India-Pak conflict, launched

the US-Israeli combined war against Iran in February. He had said he's unlikely to get the prize. But he added again on Wednesday that he'd got it already, in some way. "I was very honored to receive it indirectly last time by the recipient, who said nobody in history deserves it more than President Trump," he told reporters at his office. He was referring to Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, the 2025 laureate, who gave him her medal at the White House in January. The Nobel Committee has said a prize cannot be transferred or shared once awarded. The 2026 prize went to Navi Pillay "for her efforts to promote peace and international law". Committee chair Jorgen Watne Frydnes announced it in Oslo, Norway. The committee said Pillay had been instrumental in ensuring that war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide are prosecuted. Pillay, a former judge of the International Criminal Court who later served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, now works as a jurist-lawyer at the ICC. She was a defence lawyer for Nelson Mandela and other anti-apartheid activists. The prize, worth 12 million Swedish crowns (about 1.2 million US dollars), will be presented in Oslo on December 10.

Who Can Nominate?

Under the Nobel Foundation's statutes, valid nominations may come only from qualifying individuals or bodies. These include members of national governments and parliaments, heads of state, judges of international courts in The Hague, cer-

tain university professors, directors of peace and foreign policy institutes, and former laureates. Self-nominations are not considered. Pakistan announced multiple times last year that it had nominated Trump for the prize. The announcement came days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly told Trump that India would never accept mediation. The leaders of Cambodia and Israel have also said they nominated Trump. The committee does not confirm or deny nominations. It was reported to have registered 287 candidates this year, including 208 individuals and 79 organisations. Nominations close on January 31. The five-member committee, appointed by the Norwegian parliament, then draws up a shortlist of 20-30 candidates for review by its permanent advisers. It decides by consensus or, failing that, by majority vote. Its decision cannot be appealed.

What's India's Position?

New Delhi has consistently rejected Trump's claim to have brokered the May 10, 2025 "understanding" which ended four days of fighting. On May 13, 2025, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the ceasefire was reached directly between the two countries without third-party involvement. A month later, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Modi had told Trump in a phone call that India agreed to the ceasefire only at Pakistan's request. According to the Indian government, Modi said, "India does not and will never accept mediation." Trump has repeated his mediation claim around 80 times since May 2025.

Indian-Origin Navanethem "Navi" Pillay Awarded Nobel Peace Prize 2026



Stockholm:Navanethem "Navi" Pillay has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2026. A South African of Indian-Tamil origin, Pillay was the first non-white woman judge of the High Court of South Africa. The 85-year-old is also a jurist who served as the United Nations (UN) human rights chief and headed the Rwanda genocide tribunal. She is currently a judge on the International Court of Justice. Pillay was recognised for her efforts to promote peace and international law, said Jorgen Watne Frydnes, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. He said that Pillay has "significantly enlarged the scope and impact of international law" and has led the way to "a more comprehensive global legal order." The chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee went on to praise her long career, saying she started off as a lawyer in South Africa confronting deep discrimination. Pillay's work "is a source of hope and inspiration to all those who seek to bring about a more peaceful world," he said. According to Frydnes, the Nobel committee had not yet been able to reach the recipient to inform her she had received the peace prize. In a release announcing Pillay's victory, Nobel committee said, "At a time when the number of wars and conflicts is rising, and when judges and institutions of international law are under political attack, the Nobel Committee wishes to issue a reminder that the ability to resolve conflicts without force or violence is dependent on the international rule of law." "An international legal system in which war criminals are held to account and the victims of abuse see justice served is a precondition for

a peaceful world."

About Navi Pillay

Pillay was born to Narrainsamy Naidoo and Santhama Naidoo in 1941 in a poor neighborhood of Durban in the Natal Province of South Africa. Her grandparents came from India as indentured servants to work on South African sugar plantations in the 1890s. Daughter of a bus driver, Pillay grew up and began her human rights work during the apartheid era and became the first non-white woman to establish her own law practice and to be appointed as a High Court Judge in South Africa. She became the first woman to start a law practice in South Africa's Natal Province back in 1967. After defending many opponents of apartheid, Pillay was elected as judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda by the UN General Assembly. She served on the tribunal for eight years, including four years as president. Until recently, Pillay chaired the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and is currently a judge at the International Court of Justice in the case where Myanmar stands accused of genocide.

About the Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize is often considered the most prestigious honour on the planet. This year marks the 125th anniversary of the peace prize. The Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo received nominations for 287 candidates for this year's prize, with just over a quarter of them being organisations. Experts say the committee typically focuses on the durability of peace, the promotion of international fraternity and the quiet work of institutions that strengthen those goals.

In A U-Turn, Trump Signs Oil Deal With Putin, Zelensky Calls Move "Unworthy"

US President Donald Trump said Friday that he had secured Russia's agreement for a major release of diesel, as he eased war sanctions on Moscow in a push to lower energy costs ahead of midterm elections. Moscow has been hit with waves of sanctions by the United States and partners since its 2022 invasion of neighboring Ukraine, and President Volodymyr Zelensky criticized Trump for an "unworthy" and "weak" move. The deal comes weeks before key US elections where Trump's Republican Party risks losing its grip on Congress as voters express frustration over the mounting cost of living. Prices at US gasoline and diesel pumps have surged since late February, when US-Israel strikes targeting Iran triggered Tehran's blockage of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for energy transit. "Russia will immediately supply over 300,000 Tons of Diesel Fuel to the American and Global Marketplace," Trump said on social media after talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin said Russia "reaffirmed its readiness to supply oil and oil products to the American and world markets." Trump added Moscow would supply 500,000 tons in November, followed by one million

tons, with further larger releases promised. Zelensky told reporters: "It is certainly not honest, it is certainly unworthy of our partners, and it is, in my view, a weak decision." The US Treasury issued a temporary license Friday to enable Russian diesel to flow to global markets through April 2027. "Lower prices for Americans, especially our Great Farmers, Ranchers, and Truckers, is my Greatest Priority," Trump posted on social media. **Conflict stalemate** The average cost of regular US gasoline has jumped more than 46 percent since late February to \$4.37 per gallon, while that of diesel rocketed 67 percent over the same period to \$6.28 per gallon. Trump has blamed Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries for surging fuel prices, although the US-Israeli war with Iran has been the principal disruptor of global energy supplies. News of the deal came as Ukrainian and US negotiators met on Friday in Miami in a fresh attempt to break the conflict's stalemate. The sides "held constructive discussions on potential avenues to de-escalate and conclude the war with Russia ahead of winter," said US envoy Steve Witkoff. The Miami meeting follows visits to Moscow and Kyiv last month by Witkoff, a

longtime Trump confidant, and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, as Washington seeks to revive negotiations that have yielded little progress. With winter approaching, the prospect of continued fighting and attacks on vital infrastructure has added urgency to the search for a settlement against a backdrop of deadly Russian attacks. On Thursday a Russian strike on buses in the frontline Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk killed 30 people. Trump's repeated attempts to broker an end to the war have foundered over Moscow's sweeping territorial demands, particularly its insistence on controlling all of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, including areas still held by Kyiv. Zelensky has rejected surrendering Ukrainian-held territory, warning that Russia could use it as a springboard for another attack. Russia now occupies roughly one-fifth of Ukrainian territory. The Miami discussions covered "security guarantees, as well as longer-term arrangements for Ukraine's and Europe's security to prevent future conflicts, and support Ukraine's post-war reconstruction," Witkoff said. Officials from Britain, France and Germany were at the talks, along with representatives of NATO and the European Union.

Trump Picks Katie Zacharia As New White House Press Secretary



US President Donald Trump on Friday announced the appointment of conservative commentator Katie Zacharia as his new White House press secretary, praising her as a loyal supporter. "She has an unblemished record of support, and has been a loyal and brilliant supporter, right from the beginning," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform. "She is, likewise, a devoted fan and member of MAGA!" he added, referring to his Make America Great Again movement. Zacharia, a lawyer and communications adviser to Trump's media company, will succeed Karoline Leavitt, who stepped down in August after becoming one of the most prominent public faces of his second administration. Trump hailed his new spokeswoman's credentials, including her work for his presidential campaigns, and said he was confident she would enjoy a good relationship with the White House press corps. Zacharia, in a post on X, thanked Trump for the "distinguished privilege of serving as White House Press Secretary." Trump's "confidence is a true privilege, and his leadership is a blessing to this country," she wrote. "The work

ahead is to continue delivering strong results for our Country and communicating to the American people the major wins that this Administration is making every single day." Zacharia currently serves as a senior communications advisor to Trump Media and Technology Group, which operates the president's Truth Social platform. Trump described her work at his company as "outstanding." A frequent commentator on conservative television networks including Fox News and Newsmax, Zacharia previously served a brief stint as a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which oversees US immigration enforcement. **- High profile role** - She joined the department under then-secretary Kristi Noem earlier this year but left after around two months, according to her LinkedIn profile. Zacharia, who lives in California, has also worked with Fix California, a conservative advocacy group founded by Richard Grenell, a longtime Trump ally and one of his special presidential envoys. According to CNBC, she serves as general counsel for the organization, which seeks to ad-

vance conservative political causes in the Democratic-leaning state. A graduate of Pepperdine University's law school, Zacharia began her career in Republican politics, working as an intern for the Republican National Committee in 2006, CNN reported. Trump sought advice from several allies and advisors, including Leavitt, before deciding to offer Zacharia the position, according to CNN. Her appointment fills one of the White House's most visible positions, with the press secretary responsible for briefing journalists, fielding questions about administration policies and serving as a chief public defender of the president. Leavitt, who took up the position when Trump returned to power in January 2025, became the youngest White House press secretary in US history at 27. A staunch Trump loyalist who previously served as press secretary for his 2024 presidential campaign, she left the administration in late August following the birth of her second child. Fox News announced this week that Leavitt would join the conservative network as an on-air contributor beginning in November.

All About Mangrol Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft Set To Be Commissioned Today

New Delhi: Mangrol, the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kerala, is set to be commissioned into the Indian Navy on Monday. Mangrol will strengthen the Indian Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities, particularly in coastal waters where larger warships face operational limitations, an official statement said. The ship can operate alongside maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters and other warships to detect and counter submarine threats. Its induction will enhance the Navy's ability to protect ports, harbours and coastal approaches while supporting wider fleet operations, the statement added. Amid growing underwater threats in the evolving maritime security environment, the commissioning of Mangrol marks an important milestone in strengthening the



Indian Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities, particularly in coastal waters. The ship's induction also reflects India's growing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities, it said. The ceremony will be presided over by Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. The event will be attended by senior naval and defence officials, representatives from the Ministry of Defence and Cochin Shipyard Limited, veterans and representatives of indig-

enous weapons and sensor manufacturers. Named after Mangrol, a coastal town and prominent fishing harbour in Gujarat's Junagadh district, the ship carries forward the legacy of the erstwhile INS Mangrol (M85), a mine-sweeper that served the Indian Navy until April 2004. The naming continues the Navy's tradition of preserving the legacy of its former warships. Built with over 80 per cent indigenous content, Mangrol reflects India's growing capabilities in warship design, con-

struction and integration of advanced weapons and sensors. Constructed by CSL under the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, the ship marks another important step towards self-reliance in defence shipbuilding. Designed to detect and counter underwater threats in coastal and shallow waters, Mangrol is equipped with modern weapons and sensors, including the Abhay Hull-Mounted Sonar, lightweight torpedoes, an indigenous anti-submarine rocket launcher and the Maareech Advanced Torpedo Decoy System. Powered by three diesel engines with waterjet propulsion, the ship offers high manoeuvrability for operations in shallow waters. It is also capable of undertaking underwater surveillance, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations and mine warfare-related tasks, the statement said.

Telangana Man Blames Mother For Past Village Deaths, Black Magic, Burns Her Alive

Hyderabad: A 21-year-old man allegedly burnt alive his mother in Telangana over suspicions that she practised black magic and was responsible for deaths that had occurred in the village years earlier, police said. The accused, Karre Durgesh, an autorickshaw driver, allegedly used diesel from his auto and set his mother on fire. Police said the 40-year-old woman, Karre Sayamma, died on the spot after suffering severe burn injuries on Saturday. Her son Durgesh has been named as an accused in the case. Police said he had returned to his village in Medak district from Hyderabad about 10 days before the incident. The cops believe the accused might have acted under the influence of alcohol as he was an addict. They added that no evidence of her mother being involved in



alleged activities has been found. It is alleged that Durgesh had allegedly accused his mother, an agricultural labourer, of performing occult rituals and blamed her for a number of deaths that had taken place in the village years ago. Circle Inspector Renuka and Tekmal Sub-Inspector Aravind Kumar visited the

village soon after they received information about the incident and initiated an investigation. The victim's body was taken for post-mortem examination at a government hospital in Jogipet. However, so far, investigators have found no evidence substantiating the allegations of black magic against the victim.

"There is no evidence of occult practices in our investigation. We spoke to several villagers, but none of them said she was involved in such activities," Alladurg Circle Inspector M. Renuka said. Police are probing the circumstances surrounding the killing while the accused son has been taken into custody.

Delhi-NCR Sees Rain After Monsoon Withdrawal: 3 Weather Factors Explained



Delhi and its neighbouring areas witnessed thunderstorms and heavy overnight rain, making Monday the wettest October day in four years, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD). The temperature also dropped to 18.7 degrees Celsius at Delhi's base station Safdarjung, which is 2.3 degrees below normal. The rain occurred even after the withdrawal of southwest monsoon from the region. According to IMD, monsoon's retreat

doesn't mean a region will not witness rainfall, adding that there are several factors at play, including other weather systems, changes in wind patterns and moisture in the atmosphere. The IMD's October 11 bulletin points to three factors from an active spell of unsettled weather across north India warning of rain in the region. These include a trough extending from northwest Rajasthan to northeast Madhya Pradesh, another trough stretching from a cyclonic

circulation over central Pakistan towards north Madhya Pradesh, and a western disturbance over Himachal Pradesh. A western disturbance is a weather system that originates in the Mediterranean region and moves eastwards, bringing moisture and unsettled weather to parts of north India. It is particularly associated with winter rain over northwest India but can also affect the region during the post-monsoon period. The IMD bulletin also mentions two

troughs. These are elongated zones of relatively low atmospheric pressure, while a cyclonic circulation involves winds rotating around a low-pressure area. Such features can encourage air to rise, leading to cloud formation and, when atmospheric moisture and other conditions are favourable, rainfall and thunderstorms.

Is This A One-Day Spell Or Could Rain Continue?

The IMD's October 11 forecast expected isolated to scattered rainfall over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi from October 11 to 15, with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds also likely during October 12-15. It predicted isolated heavy rainfall over Delhi and neighbouring areas on October 11. The weather department has recommended regulating tourism and recreational activities, including helicopter services, in the Delhi-NCR region. It also said that both onshore and offshore activities need to be judiciously regulated.

Maharashtra Students End 10-Day Protests As Tukaram Mundhe Gets Key Role



Pune: MPSC aspirants late Sunday night ended their 10-day agitation after the Maharashtra government formed a committee, with senior IAS officer Tukaram Mundhe as secretary, to probe alleged irregularities, including paper leaks, in the recruitment body. Subsequently, Maharashtra Public Service Commission Chairman Vivek Bhimanwar announced that he had proceeded on leave till the inquiry was completed. A state government delegation led by minister Shivendra Raje Bhosale met the agitating aspirants and informed them that most of their demands, including the formation of an inquiry committee with officers such as Mundhe, had been accepted. However, the aspirants, who had been protesting at S M Joshi Bridge in Pune for the last ten days, insisted that Bhimanwar's removal was their primary demand. Their other demands include reforms in the MPSC. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar, who had been protesting alongside the aspirants, proposed that as the process of resignation

could take time, the government should keep Bhimanwar away from the chairman's post until the inquiry was completed. The proposal triggered confusion at the protest site, with differences emerging among the aspirants. While some agreed to the proposal, others refused to call off the agitation unless Bhimanwar was removed from the post. Amid the uncertainty, it was decided that Bhosale would convey the demand to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. He left the venue to discuss the matter with the CM. Bhosale returned after about 15 minutes and informed the protesters that the state government had agreed to their demand. The minister appealed to the protesters to call off their agitation. Following the government's assurance, Vivekanad Patil, one of the representatives of the MPSC aspirants, said that they had called off the agitation for now. During his meeting with the protesters, minister Bhosale said a committee had been formed to probe into alleged irregularities concerning the state

recruitment body. Other than FDA Commissioner Tukaram Muhdhe, the committee will also have ex-judge Dilip Bhosale as chairman, IPS officer Laxmi Gautam, ex-IAS officer Ganesh Patil and retired judge P D Naik. Bhosale also told the protesters that the aspirants' many other demands would be addressed. These included the withdrawal of cases against some representatives of the agitation, recruitment to 70,000 posts over three years, an increase in the number of seats in the Group C examination scheduled for January, and background checks on the chairman and secretary of the MPSC before their appointment. MLA Rohit Pawar welcomed Mundhe's inclusion in the committee. "We hope the committee will have the freedom to work properly," he said. Meanwhile, Bhimanwar, in a post on X, said he had proceeded on leave. "The state government has announced a judicial inquiry into the MPSC paper leak case. Throughout my entire life, I have always prioritised ethics. Therefore, I have de-

cided to go on leave during this period instead of continuing to serve in the post until this inquiry is completed," he said. Earlier in the day, Pawar had asked the Maharashtra government to clarify its stand over Bhimanwar by Sunday evening. "The next course of action will be announced on Sunday evening," Pawar told reporters. Two days ago, Pune Police registered a case against 15 representatives of the agitation for allegedly organising the protest without permission, obstructing traffic and violating prohibitory orders in the city. Separately, five people were booked for allegedly flying a drone at the protest site. Following the registration of cases, Pawar visited the Vishrambaug police station and demanded that an FIR be registered against him. The police told him that a decision would be taken after an investigation, he said. Claiming that nearly 25 lakh students were directly or indirectly affected by the issue, Pawar urged Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to prioritise aspirants' concerns "over his friendship with MPSC chairman Bhimanwar". "Representatives of the protesting students have submitted a draft outlining proposed reforms to cleanse the commission, and the students have endorsed the document," he said. Alleging that the government is ignoring the protesters because many of them came from poor families, Pawar said the agitation could take a different turn if students, their family members and other citizens joined in large numbers.

Asking Questions Not Defamation": Delhi Court On Parvesh Verma's Plea Against AAP Leader

"New Delhi: In a setback to Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Parvesh Verma, a court dismissed his criminal defamation case against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Saurabh Bhardwaj, adding that merely asking questions from a public representative cannot amount to defamation.

The Delhi court said there does not exist sufficient ground for taking cognisance of the offence and opined that posts and videos on X posted by Saurabh Bhardwaj were in the nature of questions asked with the purpose to criticise the government and not to defame anyone.

"In a democracy, it is not only the right of the press and the public to ask the government questions, it is also the job of the government and the elected officials to, at times, listen to opinions which are different from their own," the court said.

The court noted that some facts prima facie show that the complainant Verma did not approach the court with clean hands.

What Was The Case? Delhi minister Parvesh Verma had alleged that Saurabh Bhardwaj lowered his reputation in the eyes of the public by making insinuations of



corruption, nepotism through his posts. He further said that the AAP leader, through his social media posts, made allegations that Verma used influence to favour some accused in a POCSO case. Parvesh Verma went on to mention more accusations levelled by former Delhi minister against him relating to a school trust and appointment of the Verma's alleged close associate as a trustee there. The Delhi Deputy Chief Minister said that Bhardwaj made these statements without any verification or due diligence, solely with ulterior motive of gaining political mileage and tarnishing the image of the complainant.

Why Court Dismissed The Case

In its order, the Delhi court emphasised that

questions from a person acting as a representative of the public in the Parliament, regarding any law and order situation or for that purpose, any other matter, cannot amount to defamation. The court added that any contrary view will rather be a dark spell in the era of democracy paving way for utter disregard of the constitutional rights. One important aspect that the court mentioned is that people who approach the court for relief are under a contract with the court that they would state the whole case fully and fairly and where the litigant has broken such faith, the discretion of the court cannot be exercised in favour of such a litigant.

The court also noted that, in the present case,

the proposed accused is the Official spokesperson of Aam Aadmi Party which is the official opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Thus, he owes a duty to the general public not only to put questions to those in power but also to highlight their shortcomings, criticise the government actions and scrutinise their policies by acting as a watchdog, the court noted. The entire framework has been developed in such a manner so as to restrict the ruling party from misusing power or developing authoritarian tendencies, it added. The court further said that the public has both; right and interest - to know about the same, and viewed from this perspective, the statements made by the proposed accused squarely fits in this frame.

'Haven't Yet Examined Form 6': Supreme Court On Bihar SIR Petition



New Delhi: The Supreme Court today iterated that it had not yet examined the matter concerning Form 6, which is needed for registering as a new voter.

The observation came from a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya

Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana while hearing a petition on the voter roll cleanup exercise special intensive revision (SIR).

The petitioner's lawyer said that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has said

that Form 6 was approved by the Supreme Court.

To this, Justice Bagchi said, "There is no adjudication on the new Form 6."

The Supreme Court, iterating what it had said in a previous hearing, said there was no application regarding the new Form 6 when the case over the SIR in Bihar was taken up. "It was neither approved or disapproved. We haven't examined it," the Supreme Court said.

While hearing a separate petition on October 5, the Supreme Court said it had not

approved any modifications to Form 6 being used by the ECI during the SIR of electoral rolls in various states.

The Election Commission in a press release on September 26 suggested that the Supreme Court had upheld the Form 6 declaration in the May 2026 judgement relating to the Bihar SIR. However, the ECI has said that Form 6 itself has not been amended; it maintained that it only added an extra declaration to be used by new voters for the SIR exercise.

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Completes One Year

- *Gaya-Bihar, Nagaur-Rajasthan and Umaria- Madhya Pradesh, Recognised as Best-Performing Districts*
- *The ultimate measure of PMDDKY's success would be the meaningful difference it makes to the lives of farmers: Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Chouhan*
- *Union Minister Calls for Outcome-Oriented Implementation of PMDDKY in its Second Year*



New Delhi, October, 12 (PIB): As Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) completed one year of implementation on 11th October 2026, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, organised an event today to mark the occasion at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC),

PUSA, New Delhi. The event was attended by Union Ministers, Secretaries of Central Ministries/Departments, Central Nodal Officers under PMDDKY, senior officers of the Central Government, and more than 370 delegates from the states including District Collectors, district-level functionaries, agricultural scientists and progressive farmers ofDDKY districts. Addressing the gathering

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that the first year had focused on establishing strong foundations, while the coming year must be dedicated to delivering visible and measurable outcomes on the ground. He highlighted the importance of improving agricultural productivity, increasing cropping intensity,

strengthening irrigation and water management, facilitating access to agricultural credit, promoting high-value agriculture, improving post-harvest infrastructure and enhancing farmers' incomes.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasised that the ultimate measure of PMDDKY's success would be the meaningful difference it makes to the lives of farmers. He called upon all stakeholders to strengthen coordination, accelerate implementation and focus on measurable improvements in agricultural outcomes and sustainable farm incomes. The participation of Allied Ministries/Departments reflected the importance of a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to agricultural development.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to working with State Governments, district administra-

tions, scientific institutions and farmers to translate district action plans into tangible results. The coming year will focus on scaling up successful interventions and improving outcomes across all identified districts, with the overarching vision of making all 100 PMDDKY districts truly "Dhan-Dhaanya"—rich in grain and rich in prosperity.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan also emphasised that the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, scheduled to be organised across all States from 22 October to 30 November 2026, aims to promote soil health through the balanced and judicious use of fertilisers. The Minister encouraged all State Governments and concerned authorities to actively participate in the campaign and ensure its successful implementation. He highlighted the importance of adopting sustainable agricultural practices to maintain soil fertility, protect the environment, and preserve natural

resources for future generations. In his welcome address, the Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, highlighted the district-centric approach of the scheme, under which action plans are prepared by districts in accordance with their soil conditions, rainfall, cropping patterns, water availability, infrastructure and the needs of their farming communities. He acknowledged the contribution of State Governments, District Collectors, District Nodal Officers, Central Nodal Officers, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) scientists and field functionaries in implementing the scheme. He also underscored the importance of the District Dhan-Dhaanya Samitis in coordinating planning and implementation. The scheme monitors district performance against 121 indicators through a dedicated dashboard, with monthly rankings encouraging transparency and healthy competition among districts.

Coal stocks at power plants remain stable above 18 MT; depletion thins out in October 2026 as coal supplies strengthen

New Delhi, October, 12 (PIB): The coal stocks at domestic coal-based power plants have remained stable above 18 million tonnes (MT) since 29 September 2026. Stock was 18.932 MT on 29 September and is at 18.205 MT on 10 October 2026. The stabilisation reflects coal supplies keeping pace with daily consumption at power plants and the supply to the plants with critical stocks is being closely monitored, with requirement-based redistribution of coal to vulnerable stations to ensure adequate supplies and uninterrupted power generation. In September 2026, stock declined by about 7.28 MT over the month, an average of about 0.24 MT per day. In the first ten days of October 2026, stock declined by only about 0.56 MT in total, an average of about 0.06 MT per day. Higher rake loading has driven this improvement. Rakes loaded to the power sector averaged 469 rakes per day in October 2026 (1–10 October), against 426 rakes per day in September 2026, an increase of about 10%. Daily rake loading in October has ranged between 447 and 482 rakes.

Title: Rake loading - Description: Daily rakes loaded Sept-Oct 2026

As a result, actual coal supply to the power sector averaged 2.49 MT per day in October 2026, against 2.21 MT per day in September 2026. The actual coal supply in October 26 (till 10.10.2026) is higher than supply plan of 2.37 MT per day, and supply exceeded the plan on nine of the ten days. The Ministry continues to work in close coordination with Coal India Limited (CIL), SCCL, the Ministry of Railways and power utilities to ensure sustained coal evacuation and supply, thereby maintaining adequate coal stocks at thermal power plants. The Ministry of Coal duly acknowledges and appreciates the continued support and professional commitment of Indian Railways in facilitating the efficient movement of coal.

Piyush Goyal Emphasises a Twin-Track Approach of Global Technologies and Employment Generation

Union Minister addresses 'Dilli Dialogue: Policies for a Future-Ready India' India to Become Car Manufacturing Hub of the World: Goyal

New Delhi, October, 12 (PIB): Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, emphasised a twin-track approach of engaging with the world's best technologies and identifying areas with significant job and business potential. Addressing the 'Dilli Dialogue: Policies for a Future-Ready India' in New Delhi, today, he highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for businesses, startups and young people. The Minister said, "We want to be a part of the global marketplace. Providing opportunities for people, providing opportunities for jobs, for our startups, for our youth to come up with newer ideas." Goyal highlighted India's expanding engagement with global markets through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), emphasising the opportunities these agreements create for Indian businesses and youth. He said that India's partnerships with developed economies could benefit both sides, with India offering strengths in textiles, footwear, agriculture and food processing while gaining access to advanced technologies and high-quality electronic equipment. Emphasising India's approach to global engagement and self-reliance, Shri Goyal said, "We are not closing the doors of India to the world. We are, in fact, opening them wider." Piyush Goyal, also emphasised the importance of setting ambitious targets for India's economic growth and exports while speaking at the event, Shri Goyal referred to the trillion-dollar export target and expressed confidence in India's ability to achieve it and highlighted the importance of pursuing ambitious national goals as part of the country's journey towards 'Viksit Bharat 2047.' The Minister said that India's ambition of becoming a developed nation by 2047 is supported by a roadmap identifying sectors that will contribute to the country's growth. He highlighted the rising demand for goods and services among India's 1.4 billion people and said that growing imports also indicate opportunities for domestic industry and international investors. He noted that increasing demand for electronics and white goods could encourage investment in domestic manufacturing, including semiconductor factories. Goyal identified tourism as a sector with substantial potential to generate employment and create new business opportunities. He said that artificial intelligence could improve the efficiency of tourism promotion, while human experiences would remain central to the sector. He stated, "AI can only add to the efficiency of promoting tourism. But otherwise, human experiences will always be AI proof." He also highlighted India's culinary heritage and regional diversity, referring to the potential of Indian food traditions and products such as filter coffee, rasam, idli and dosa. Goyal also highlighted India's demographic advantage, noting that its young population offers opportunities at a time when many economies are experiencing ageing populations. He referred to the demand for Indian workers in countries such as Germany and Japan and highlighted the potential for Indian professionals to contribute to international markets. Shri Goyal also highlighted the trust placed in Indian workers internationally, stating that Indians are respected for their honesty and their commitment to caring for others. Piyush Goyal expressed confidence that India would emerge as a global hub for car manufacturing, stating that international automobile manufacturers would increasingly manufacture in India as market demand reaches a viable scale. Referring to the quotas permitted for car imports from the United Kingdom and the European Union, Shri Goyal explained that these largely covered expensive cars, while the lower-priced segment had not been opened. Citing the examples of luxury automobile manufacturers establishing manufacturing plants in Pune after initially testing the Indian market, Shri Goyal highlighted India's potential to attract global automobile manufacturers and strengthen its position in global car manufacturing.Emphasising the importance of quality in strengthening India's global competitiveness, the Minister called for collective efforts by policymakers, industry stakeholders and institutions, including the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, to improve quality standards. Goyal concluded by emphasising that if India adopts and practises world-class quality standards, no power on earth can stop it and the world is India's to capture.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Your biggest asset is your sense of humour try to use it to cure your illness. Investment in antiques and jewelry will bring gains and prosperity. Visiting relatives would be much better than you might imagine. Disappointment in love would not discourage you. Your consistent hard work will pay really well today. You need to work on your shortcomings, and for this, you should make time for yourself. Today, you might stay stressed due to the health of your spouse. Remedy :- For a happy and contended love life, present your lover with blue coloured or hued flowers such as orchids, iris, hyacinths, etc.



Taurus

Children will brighten your evening. Plan a nice dinner to adieu a dull and hectic day. Their company would recharge your body. Any of your movable property can get stolen today. Hence, you need to take good care of them. Your witty nature would brighten the environment around you. Your beloved will seem a bit irritated-which will add pressure on your mind. Your mastery in profession will be tested. You need to concentrate your efforts to give desired results. Today, you can sit with your family members and talk about many important issues of life. Your words may be bothersome for your family, but you will be able to derive a solution. Remedy :- For excellent financial growth, drink copper-charged water (water stored in copper vessel).



Gemini

Keep yourself involved in activities that will help you keep your cool. Certain important work will come to a halt due to bleak financial position. Some of you are likely to purchase jewelry or a home appliance. A good communication or a message from your beloved or spouse will enhance your morale today. Part-time jobs for some. Travel and educational pursuits will enhance your awareness. Today you will know the true ecstasy of being married. Remedy :- Prepare dessert (kheer) made of milk, sugar and rice and distribute it among young girls for excellent financial benefits



Cancer

You may get rid from prolonged illness. Investment concerning your residence will be profitable. At home your children will present you with a situation which has been blown out of proportion-Verify the facts before taking any action. Likely to go on a pleasure trip that will rejuvenate your energy and passion. Venture into partnership with enterprising people. To properly utilize your free time, you should get away from people and do what you love. Doing this you will also bring some positive changes in your life. Today, you will get to spend the best evening of your life with your spouse. Remedy :- Family life can be made blissful by respecting and not hurting women.



Leo

Avoid overeating and visit a health club regularly to stay fit. Incase you are looking for ways to make little extra money- invest in secure financial schemes. The jovial nature of family members will lighten up the atmosphere at home. You will be highly sensitive to remarks made by your lover-You need to control your emotions and avoid doing anything that could worsen the situation. You might get a good news at work today. If you are able to find time for yourself, even after a busy routine, then you should learn to utilize it properly. Doing this can help you improve your future. Your spouse might hurt you intentionally today, which might keep you upset for some time. Remedy :- Deepen your love bond with lover by keeping 1 black and 10 golden fish in an aquarium at home.



Virgo

Maintain your mental health-which is prerequisite for spiritual life. Mind is the gateway of life because everything whether it is good/bad comes through mind. It helps in solving life problems and endows one with requisite light. You will like to overspend on others. Unexpected good news later in the day brings happiness and cheers for the entire family. Personal relationships are sensitive and vulnerable. Don't hand over important files to your boss until you are sure that it is complete in all respects. A sparkling laughter filled day when most things proceed-as you desire. You might feel annoyed by your spouse due to off mood. Remedy :- To keep your partner happy, gift your father and teacher red and maroon-coloured clothing.



Libra

Chances of your recovering from physical illness are high which will enable you to participate in sports competition. There is a possibility of money loss today, hence you are required to remain alert while making transactions or signing any document. You would have some difficulty with family members but don't let this ruin the peace of your mind. Be original in your appearance and behaviour when you go out with your lover. New ideas would be productive. In today's busy lifestyle, it gets difficult to find time for yourself. But today is your lucky day, as you will have plenty of time for yourself. Do not push your partner for anything; this will only make you both distant at heart. Remedy :- Feed milk to dogs, especially black dogs, to achieve satisfactory family life.



Scorpio

Today your confidence will grow and advancement is certain. Don't overspend too much in order to impress others. Children cause some disappointment as they spend more time on outdoor activities than planning their career. Sudden romantic encounter are foreseen today. Pending proposals get implemented. As per your personality, you get upset by meeting more people and then try to find time for yourself amidst all the chaos. In this sense, today is going to be a great day for you, as you will get enough time for yourself. Your better half will caress your weaknesses. It will make you feel ecstatic. Remedy :- Worship regularly the silver idol of the presiding deity at your home for strong financial position.



Sagittarius

You are going to enjoy the pleasure of leisure. Sudden inflow of funds takes care of your bills and immediate expenses. Friends and family members take up most of your time. Physical existence is now of no consideration, as you feel yourself into each other in love all the time. Venture into partnership with enterprising people. Time to re-assess your strengths and your future plans. Things look really fabulous when it comes on your marital life. Remedy :- Feed cows with grass (Chara) to lead a prosperous family life.



Capricorn

Your enormous confidence and easy work schedule brings you enough time to relax today. Financial hassles will be eased out with the help of your friends. Home-improvement projects should be considered. Your day could be little upset because of interruptions of family members of your spouse. Overseas news and business offers for some. Some of you will undertake a distant journey-which will be hectic but highly rewarding. Relatives might become a reason of argument with your spouse today. Remedy :- Feed fish to make love life interesting.



Aquarius

Today is also a good day to follow religious and spiritual interest. Your money comes to your work only when you stop yourself from spending extravagantly, today you can understand this thing well. Domestic work will be tiring and become a major cause for mental stress. Your love will reach a new height. The day will begin with the smile of your love, and end in the dreams of each other. Listen to your inner feeling before committing to any partnership. Good day for some recreation and entertainment. Things might come into your favor amazingly when it comes on your married life. Remedy :- Make donations in iron vessels to poor and needy people and cherish happy family moments.



Pisces

Chances of your recovering from physical illness are high which will enable you to participate in sports competition. Today, you can take your family members out for a get-together and spend a lot of money on them. Trouble seems to be brewing on the home front so take care of what you say. The day is fabulous in terms of your love life. Keep making love. This is a wonderful day to negotiate with new clients. You will not mind what people think of you today. Rather, you will prefer not meeting anyone in your spare time and enjoy the solitude. You will do something really exciting with your spouse today. Remedy :- Reciting (Om Gam Ganapathaye Namaha) 11 times daily in the morning and evening will bring bliss to family life.

Shreyas Iyer Explains Why India Couldn't Defend 249 Against West Indies, Points Out One 'Factor'



Just the previous match, Shreyas Iyer scored 102* to almost single-handedly guide India to a win against the West Indies in the first T20I of the five-match series. On Friday, Iyer was at the receiving end of another 102* as West Indies captain Shai Hope scored the second-fastest T20I ton by a West Indies batter to chase down the 250-run target set by India in the second T20I. After the stunning result, Iyer refused to blame any of his players. Instead, he pointed to the dew factor in Ranchi and the nature of the pitch. India posted a formidable 249 for five, but a ton-up Shai Hope-

led West Indies chased it down with nine balls to spare, leaving Iyer to acknowledge the quality of the opposition's batting and the impact of a decisive partnership. "You cannot put a number to it because when the dew factor comes in, it becomes difficult. Even 249 was chased down with almost two overs to spare. The margin of error on this wicket was very minor. It was going into the stands if you just missed it by a mark," Iyer said after the match. Hope, who remained unbeaten on 102 off just 45 balls, was well supported by Sherfane Rutherford, who smashed 84 in 37 deliveries.

Iyer praised the West Indies batters for their performance while also expressing satisfaction with the contributions of India's top-order batters Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma. "They batted amazingly, kudos to them. Both were phenomenal in their departments. This is what we look forward to from Sanju and Abhishek and also Mayank. The momentum shifted towards them after that partnership," he added. Opener Samson made a fine 84, while Mayank picked up three top-order wickets. West Indies captain Hope, who was named Player of the Match,

admitted that the chase had looked challenging after his side slipped to five for two. "It was going to be a tough chase. Five for two was always going to be challenging. When we got that partnership between me and Rovman, we started believing," Hope said. Hope stressed the importance of building partnerships and taking calculated risks while chasing a daunting target. "I really believe we need to bat in partnerships. I thought we were going nicely, so it was about taking calculated risks," he said. The West Indies skipper also praised Roston Chase for his bowling effort on a batting-friendly surface. "Amazing from Chase to bowl like that on a pitch like this," Hope said. Reflecting on his own performance, Hope credited preparation and mental readiness for his consistency while acknowledging that luck had also played a part. "The SS bats that I have are pretty good. Came off well today and you need some luck going your way. It's a tough one. When you are scoring runs you are happy," he said. "I think the way I am prepared and being mentally ready is probably helping me do well. I never want to get too high (about success)," he added

Who Is To Be Blamed For India's Loss vs West Indies Despite Scoring 249? Gautam Gambhir's Answer Shows His Philosophy



To face questions after a team fails to defend 249 in a T20I is normal. On Friday night in Ranchi, when the world witnessed a T20I match in which the teams aggregated 500 runs for only the second time in history, it was India coach Gautam Gambhir who put on a brave face and faced the media. In a game in which batters from both sides scored 502 runs in 38.3 overs, Gambhir had special praise for a bowler. "If you look at the context of the game, it (Roston Chase's spell) was a game-changing, match-winning spell. The way he changed his lines was important on this wicket. But against dangerous teams like West Indies, we need to find a way to defend totals,"

Gambhir said at the post-match press conference. "You have to keep changing your lines and make the batters guess. If you keep bowling the same line and length, they can settle in. He bowled at the batters' legs, went wide and bowled full. He kept changing his approach, and those variations are very important on wickets like these." Chase returned figures of 3/24, dismissing Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Shivam Dube in the middle overs to slow India down after a flying start. India posted 249/5, powered by Samson's 82 and rapid knocks from Shreyas Iyer and Tilak Varma, but the West Indies chased down the target in 18.3 overs. "I don't blame anyone or anything. The bottom

line is that we could not defend 250. They batted extremely well and deserved to win. We still have a lot of work to do." Mayank Yadav dropped a sitter as Sherfane Rutherford went on to score 84 in a match-winning 120-run partnership with Shai Hope (102 not out). "The toss is not in your hands. Catches get dropped; it has happened in the past and will happen in the future. Nobody drops catches intentionally, so you cannot blame anyone for that," Gambhir said. "I don't know if there is a safe total. We thought 250 was a good score, especially after taking two early wickets. But credit to the West Indies for what they achieved with the bat," he added.

AB De Villiers Rolls Back The Years At 42, Slams 37-Ball Ton In Legends League



AB de Villiers recently spoke about how Virat Kohli might be achieving the peak of his career at the age of 37. Well, on Friday, the legendary South African batter showed that he has barely lost any of his skill despite having retired from international cricket more than eight years ago. Playing for

South Africa Champions in the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2026, de Villiers rolled back the years, smashing a stunning 111* off just 40 balls to power his team to victory over Australia Champions. In the match, Australia Champions put up a daunting total of 209/5 in 20 overs, helped

by fiery knocks from D'Arcy Short, David Warner and Joe Burns. But AB de Villiers made the target of 210 look like a cakewalk. Walking in at No. 3, de Villiers hammered six fours and 11 gigantic sixes as South Africa Champions chased down the target in just 15.2 overs. He reached his century

in only 37 balls. It was AB de Villiers at his vicious best as he dealt in sixes, slamming maximums over cover, long-off, long-on and multiple times over deep mid-wicket. De Villiers received excellent support from opener Richard Levi, who made 62 off 29. But such was his destructive batting that the likes of Faf du Plessis and JP Duminy, who are also part of the South Africa Champions team, barely had to break a sweat. This isn't the first time that the retired South African star, now 42, has lit up the WCL. In the 2025 edition, de Villiers finished as the highest run-scorer by a distance, scoring 429 runs in only six matches at a strike-rate of 220. He struck three centuries and also a fifty. The fact that de Villiers continues to maintain such a level is truly remarkable, as it has been more than five years since he last played any form of professional franchise cricket (IPL 2021 with Royal Challengers Bengaluru).

Install A Bowling Machine'': Yuzvendra Chahal's Explosive Rant As West Indies Chase Down 250 vs India

"India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal raised concerns over the increasingly batter-friendly conditions in T20 cricket after the West Indies chased down 250 against India in the second T20I in Ranchi on Friday, arguing that flat pitches, dew and smaller boundaries are making it increasingly difficult for bowlers to remain competitive. "On such wickets, there's nothing for the bowlers. When the ball gets old, there's dew, the ball comes nicely onto the bat, and the grounds are getting smaller. We've seen this in the IPL as well, with 260 being chased in 19 overs. In this game too, 250 got chased down easily in 19.2 overs. So, what should bowlers do? What is the use of their skill?" Chahal questioned while speaking to JioStar. Chahal's remarks followed a contest in which India's batting effort produced 249/5, only for the West Indies to overhaul the target with four balls to spare. The result underlined the chal-



lenge facing bowling attacks when batters can sustain an aggressive scoring rate throughout an innings. Shai Hope led the visitors' pursuit with an unbeaten 102 off 45 deliveries, while Sherfane Rutherford struck 84 off 37 balls. Their 120-run partnership turned the chase in the West Indies' favour after India had made early inroads, helping the visitors finish on 252/4 and secure a six-wicket victory. "I feel for

them, because I am a bowler too and when I bowl in the IPL, on small grounds with flat wickets, you have an Impact Player as well. Earlier, when the Impact Player rule was not there, you used to see 50 runs in six overs, and 170-180 was a fighting total. But these days, 70-80 runs are scored in the first six overs, and the game is done there itself. So, either you have to have something for the bowlers in the wicket, or else just install a bowling

machine," he added. The win levelled the five-match series at 1-1 and reinforced the difficulty of defending large totals in modern T20 cricket. Chahal's criticism also extended to the Indian Premier League, where he believes the combination of smaller grounds, flat surfaces and the Impact Player rule has further tilted the balance towards batters. India will have another opportunity to assess their bowling approach in the third T20I in Indore.

Sanju Samson Or Vaibhav Sooryavanshi? Robin Singh Weighs In On India's Big Dilemma



Former Indian cricketer Robin Singh believes the Vaibhav Sooryavanshi-Sanju Samson debate in T20Is presents the Indian team with healthy competition, one that will not allow either player to "slip up" with their performances. With Sooryavanshi graduating to the senior level after setting the IPL and U19 circuit alight, the Indian T20I team has found itself facing a selection dilemma over whether to pick the explosive teenager or the experienced Samson at the top of the order alongside Abhishek Sharma. The former all-rounder said youngsters should be given a long run in the side, but acknowledged that strong performances from others could mean Sooryavanshi has to wait for

his opportunities. "It is a question of giving people a good run. You don't want to give a youngster just one game or two games and then make him sit on the bench. I think those days are gone. It's important to also let him understand what international cricket is," Robin told IANS. "Sooryavanshi has enough and more talent. So, even if he has to sit on the bench and wait it out, it's okay. But the others have done very well. "So, it's good to have competition. It's good to have people breathing down your neck so that you don't slip up with your performances," he added. Sooryavanshi has been part of India's T20I squads since the away series against Ireland, but has played only eight of the 18 matches since then. He made

his debut in the second T20I of the five-match series in England after India took the tough call of dropping Samson following three failures despite his impressive T20 World Cup 2026 campaign. Samson returned to contention after being rested for the Zimbabwe T20I series and has retained the opening slot, particularly in home T20Is. India also experimented with playing both Sooryavanshi and Samson during the Asian Games in Japan, where the team fielded only one specialist pacer alongside several spin-bowling all-rounders, as the conditions favoured spin. However, with more pace options now in the Playing XI, Sooryavanshi has had to wait in the wings as Samson and Abhishek continue to open the batting.

Another Big Change At CSK Ahead Of IPL 2027, Long-Time Batting Coach Michael Hussey Departs

Major changes are taking place at Chennai Super Kings (CSK). Former India pacer Zaheer Khan being appointed as head coach appears to be only the first step in a massive restructuring of the franchise's support staff. Now, another big move has been made by CSK, as they have reportedly parted ways with batting coach Michael Hussey. The Australian has won two Indian Premier League (IPL) titles as a player and three more as a coach with CSK, but their long association has seemingly come to an end. According to a report by Cricbuzz, Hussey has been formally informed of the decision by the CSK management. However, it is possible that Hussey ends up in the support staff of another franchise for IPL 2027. As per the report, Hussey has



been in talks with a few teams and could end up in another dugout in the upcoming IPL season. Hussey's departure adds to the changes being made in the coaching staff by CSK ahead of IPL 2027. The team previously parted ways with Stephen Fleming, who was head coach for 18 years, as well as bowling coach Eric Simons. It also appears that fielding coach James Foster's future at the fran-

chise is also not guaranteed. Along with Zaheer's appointment as head coach, former CSK pacer Mohit Sharma has been named the team's bowling coach going forward. It will be interesting to see who replaces Hussey as batting coach. A key detail to note is that MS Dhoni, CSK's legendary captain and stalwart, is reportedly playing a crucial role in the coaching changes at the franchise.

Box Office: Can Rajini & Vijay Utilize Dasara's Full Potential?

Dasara season has begun, and the Navarathri celebrations have taken to the streets. The festival season is also a time for families to come together and witness new releases in theatres. To honor the celebration, two big releases are set for the festival period.

One is a straight Telugu film, and the other is a dubbed film. Both Vijay Deverakonda and Rajinikanth are arriving on screen with Ranabaali and Jailer 2, respectively. We have to see if the two films are enough to double the Dusshera celebrations.

Vijay's Ranabaali is directed by Rahul Sankrityan, and the team is aggressively promoting it. With Rashmika as the leading lady, the project has enough material to generate curiosity. The film tells the story of a brave warrior's fight against severe colonial oppression to save his people during one of the most violent periods in Indian history. So far, the promotional material has given the film a positive vibe, and it's a must-win for Vijay, who is waiting to make a comeback after many flops. Similarly, Rahul has proven himself as a good direc-



tor and is looking to climb the ladder. On the flip side, Jailer 2 is the sequel to the blockbuster Jailer, directed by Nelson. The film's first part is a big hit in Telugu too, raising expectations for the second part. The presence of star actors like Mohanlal, Shivraj Kumar and Hrithik

Roshan brings attention to the film at the pan-India level. The film is loaded with action and Nelson mark comedy which should blend well with Rajini's style and swag. Already, both films have drawn a lot of discussions and hype on social media. Vijay Deverakonda di-

rectly addressed the targeted hatred toward his film, comparing it to Jailer 2. But, setting this unnecessary noise aside, both films have real scope to excel at the box office. With the right promotion and release, the two films can provide wholesome entertainment for audiences.

AA23: Lokesh Silences All The Noise With A Solid Pic!

Director Lokesh Kanagaraj has sparked fresh excitement among fans by sharing a picture of himself with Allu Arjun, hinting that discussions about their upcoming film are moving forward. The director also wrote that interesting updates are coming soon, raising hopes that the much-awaited collaboration is very much on track. Over the last few days, reports suggested that the project had been stalled because Allu Arjun was reportedly unhappy with the script and had decided to step away. These reports created confusion among fans who were eagerly waiting for the combination to take shape. However, Lokesh's latest social media post appears to have put those doubts to rest. A few days ago, Allu Arjun's team had also clarified that the project was very much on, dismissing speculation about its cancellation. The latest development has now given fans another reason to celebrate. Allu Arjun and Lokesh Kanagaraj coming together has generated considerable curiosity, as both are known for their filmmaking



choices. Lokesh has earned recognition for delivering action-packed films with intense characters, while Allu Arjun is riding high after the success of Pushpa 2: The Rule. Their col-

laboration is expected to be a crazy pan-Indian project, although details about the story and cast remain under wraps.

With Lokesh promising interesting updates soon, fans are

now eagerly waiting for an official announcement. Until then, the latest picture has certainly reignited excitement around the Allu Arjun-Lokesh Kanagaraj film.

Drishyam 3: A Textbook Example Of Perfect Box Office Planning

Drishyam 3 is showing how the right planning and release strategy can make a big difference at the box office. Despite being a remake, the film has managed to deliver a satisfying ending, addressing some of the concerns audiences had with the Malayalam version. Another smart move was choosing the right release window. The film arrived without facing a major box office clash, giving it enough space to attract audiences. Releasing just ten days before the Navratri season also appears to have worked in its favour. In just ten days, the film has reportedly crossed the Rs.475 crore mark worldwide. With the Navratri and Dasara holiday period approaching, the film is now set to benefit from increased audience turnout. Although Drishyam 3 has a few flaws, it has managed to satisfy a large section of the franchise's loyal audience. The familiar characters, suspenseful storytelling, and emotional connect have helped bring people to theatres. The holiday window could now give the film another boost. If it maintains its momentum and continues attracting audiences during the festive season, the film could move towards the ?700 crore mark in its full run.

Drishyam 3 highlights how smart release planning, audience expectations, and a story that connects with viewers can work together to deliver a strong box office performance.



Dimple Hayathi Shines With Elegant Saree Glam

Dimple Hayathi, who is coming up with the movie Aadarsha Kutumbam House No. 47, was clicked walking down the aisle at the film's event. At the Narayanamma song launch event in Hyderabad, Dimple wore a rose-gold satin saree with sequin-embellished gold borders. She paired it with an embroidered sleeveless blouse, silver embellished heels, a statement ring and drop earrings. Soft waves, pink lips and subtle glam completed the elegant look. Dimple Hayathi makes a special appearance in Narayanamma, the first single from Venkatesh and Trivikram's Aadarsha Kutumbam. She will next be seen as Mandaram, a bold and powerful character, in Sharwanand's period action drama Bhogi, directed by Sampath Nandi.



Poor Planning Turns Rs.400 Cr Sensation Into a Telugu Flop

Hanuman Ansh created box-office records all over the country. The film has been in news especially for its microscopic budget of just 2 crore and still managed to collect over Rs 400 crore world-wide. Such a sensational record holding biographical film has failed in Telugu majorly because of its poor planning, promotions and also could be the over-confidence given that the film witnessed sensational run elsewhere. First, Hanuman Ansh arrived in Telugu theatres much later, two months after its original release. While the film originally released on August 7, 2026, the Telugu dubbed version hit the screens on October 9th. Initially, there was strong news that director Trivikram Srinivas is going to present the film in Telugu.

However, Trivikram dropped at the last minute for some unknown reasons and eventually,



Hombale Films, the makers of Kantara, have released Hanuman Ansh in Telugu by teaming up with distributing partners such as Mythri Movie Makers, Geetha Arts and some other local distributors.

With no proper promotions and with no proper planning, the biographical devotional

drama, Hanuman Ansh turned out to be a box-office failure. The makers should have created awareness about the film in various ways as Telugu audiences are not aware of Karoli Baba and his life. There are no solid promotions and the film is now struggling hard to pull footfalls to theatres in Telugu.

Is Yash going to repeat the same mistake he made with Toxic?

Kannada superstar Yash became a pan-Indian star with the "KGF" franchise. After the phenomenal success of the two films, his next move has become a subject of keen interest among audiences across the country. When Yash announced "Toxic", many questioned his decision to work with director Geetu Mohandas. Although she had earned recognition for her previous work, she had not directed a big commercial blockbuster on the scale expected from a star of Yash's stature. Some felt that Yash should have chosen a filmmaker with a stronger track record in commercial cinema.

Several established directors, including Shankar, were reportedly among the filmmakers who had approached him. However, Yash opted to work with Geetu

Mohandas on "Toxic". After spending more than three years in production, the film reportedly turned into a major box-office disappointment following its release in August this year. Now, reports suggest that Yash may team up with Tamil director PS Mithran for his next film. The buzz has already triggered questions about whether Yash is making the right choice this time. Mithran's recent film, "Sardar 2", starring Karthi,

failed to make an impact at the box office. His earlier films have also drawn comparisons to familiar Hollywood and genre conventions, and he has yet to deliver a pan-Indian blockbuster. If the reported collaboration materialises, Yash could once again face questions about his choice of director. However, it is too early to draw conclusions about a film that has not yet been officially announced.

